***The Hunger Games***

Dear Ms. Collins,

I am writing to you about my appreciation for the book you published called *The* *Hunger Games*. In *The Hunger Games,* I am very interested inyour main character named Katniss, a 16 year old who is struggling to feed her mother and her younger sister Prim. Their life among the poor in District 12 is tough to comprehend from my perspective. From what I have read, I understand the hunting she is forced to do is illegal in District 12. I can relate, in part, to the illegal hunting Katniss resorts too. In terms of food gathering, the only thing I have ever done directly involved either fishing with my parents or going grocery shopping. As for illegal hunting, I sometimes hunt down my pets with my Nerf gun. My parents view this as an illegal activity in our house punishable by either time served in my room or confiscation of all Nerf arms.

I like the creative concept behind the Hunger Games as a source of entertainment for the people of the head of Panem called the Capitol. I am intrigued how you set it up so that the tributes from each district are picked randomly to fight to the death simply for entertainment. The Hunger Games is fairly gruesome within kids forced to kill each other in an arena. One of the most shocking events in the book for me was when Prim was chosen to fight. I was both glad and relieved when Katniss volunteered herself to go in Prim’s place. I did feel sorry for the other tribute, Peeta, when no one volunteered to take his place. Personally, I have never done anything to that extent to help someone, but I would if the opportunity arises.

One of the other characters that I thought was very entertaining was the mentor of Katniss and Peeta, Haymitch. I can see why you put him in the story when you did. I found it intriguing when Peeta and Katniss had to somewhat fight him to keep him sober on the train when they were heading to the Capitol to train themselves. I also liked the personal stylist of Katniss named Cina. It was very neat when you included the image of Katniss when she was making her debut with all the other tributes. She was wearing a cape and headdress that was lit with fake fire. I am interested in the way that the debut is used to get sponsors to buy the tributes things that they need in the arena. When it comes to having to fight to keep someone helping me, I only have a few experiences with my mom and dad assisting with homework. However, I have many experiences like Katniss when it comes to making and keeping friends.

When Katniss and Peeta start to train with the other tributes, you immediately introduced the new problem of some of the other tributes being stronger and faster. These tributes are referred to as the career tributes by the other characters you created. When Katniss and the other tributes were training, I found it entertaining when Katniss sent the arrow through one of the foods that the people who were supposed to be watching her had their attention on the food. I personally think that is why Katniss was given the best training score out of all of the tributes. I can understand the ordeal of trying to get someone’s attention though I have never had to do something quite to that extent. Also, in terms of training, the most I have ever done was practicing for baseball. Nevertheless, I can still relate to the need for success that Katniss felt.

I also liked how you made Katniss look like a real person in the interviews when you thoroughly described her anxiety and reactions to the questions she was asked. From my point of view, she did look pretty shallow especially when she was twirling and giggling even though I know that this was nothing but a nervous reaction. It was a very good thing when Peeta said that he loved Katniss because that is what made her interview, as well as his, stand out. I have had nervous reactions in things like tests, but besides that, I have never had to do anything so drastic to change my own personality. In terms of interviews, the only thing that I have ever done is a small survey at school.

One of the most suspenseful parts for me was when the Hunger Games began. I found that it added to the suspense when the huge battle first started. It was at the same time, quite gruesome in the fact that so many people died in the initial fight. It did get a little boring when the games kept dragging on. Regardless, you did show the main character’s struggle to survive. You kept the suspense going right to the end of the book. One very depressing part was when Rue, an ally of Katniss, was killed by a spear from one of the career tributes after Katniss blew up the careers supplies. I have some experience with making allies, even though I am not very good at it.

I did not find the part when Katniss and Peeta were playing the angle of “star crossed lovers” very thrilling or grabbing. However, I do understand that they needed to play this part to get sponsors to buy them food. Once the new rule was announced that there could be two winners from the same district, using their supposed love for each other was crucial. Peeta did make it very convincing that he loved Katniss when he risked his life for her early in the games. When Katniss found Peeta, he was fighting for his life. They needed food, but they could not go out and find any because Peeta was badly wounded. In terms of finding allies in some sort of warfare, I can somewhat relate to the tactical decision to join forces with Peeta. Though not quite the same, I have made allies in games like Laser Tag and Nerf Dart Tag.

The one event in the book that was the most suspenseful and thrilling occurred right when the Hunger Games came to a close. The end of the hunger games was gruesome when the final career tribute was injured and tortured by a pack of mutated wolves and dead tributes mixed together. Just when Katniss put him out of his misery, one last announcement was made. That final announcement evoked both shock and anger in me. That alone is saying something because I hardly ever get emotional from a book. The announcement said that they got rid of the old alteration to the rules so now only one person could live to be the victor. I thought that both Katniss and Peeta had a lot of courage attempting to show up the Capitol by nearly committing suicide. They did not want to kill each another. This forced the Game makers (the people who are responsible for the Hunger Games) to let them both win. I have virtually no experience for showing someone up, but I do have some experience to relate to Katniss putting something out of its misery. I had to put one of my dogs down. In addition, I had to put a squirrel out of its misery after it was mauled by a bird. The sad memories are still with me.

After Katniss and Peeta had all of their injuries and scars fixed up, they had their final interviews followed by almost three hours of recaps on the Hunger Games. Right before the interview was when Katniss found out that the Capitol were furious at her from her actions in the arena. Thankfully, Katniss and Peeta used the “Star Crossed Lovers” angle again to get the audience back on their side. I found myself angry at the people of the Capitol for forcing people to die for their entertainment. The only experiences I have in winning people over involved instances in dealing with classmates and friends. They certainly did not involve elements of life and death however.

For the final part of the book, I was a bit confused. When Peeta and Katniss were talking on the train, the topic of their strategy came up. The one thing that I could not understand was Peeta’s reaction when Katniss said that her part of the strategy was nothing but acting. When you ended the book with Katniss and Peeta getting ready to exit the train, you left me wanting more. I thought that this was perfect set up the next book.

To conclude, I think that the character in the *Hunger Games* that is most like me is Peeta because of his overall character and values. He would do almost anything for someone he cared about. Like me, he also has a high endurance for pain. An example of this was when Katniss was pulling him out of the mud into the water while he had a very deep gash in his leg. He also had a great sense of honour and duty because he would not let Katniss risk her life for him even when he was in dire need of medicine. Peeta also had a great sense of strategy. I am a strategist myself and can defeat people in games like battleship and physical games like Nerf wars. You also built his character to be good at teamwork. I can work well in groups in school and in things like laser tag. In your book, I found a character that I can somewhat relate to on many levels, even though I cannot relate to Peeta on all aspects. I really did enjoy your book in many ways, including the way that I can relate to most of the events one way or another. All in all, your book held my attention and because of this, I found it hard to put down. The *Hunger Games* was a great book because of the character development and the events that took place. Finally, I think that this was an all around great book, and I cannot wait to start your sequel.